

# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

## Special points of interest:

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- August Birthday

## How to Join

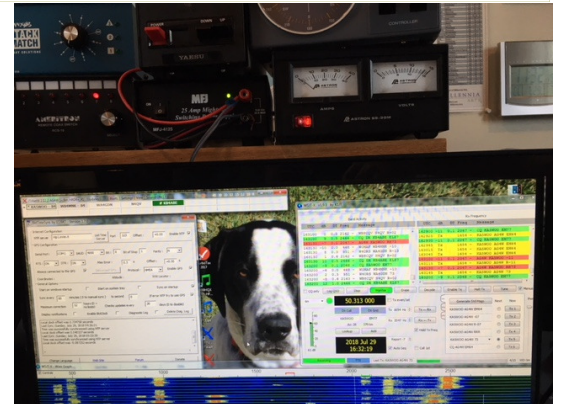
- \* Come to a club meeting;
- \* or send in an application by mail (form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org))
- \* or call Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

## From the President

I enjoyed working the WRTC operators during the IARU contest. My goal was to work all 63 of them on 20 and 40 meters. I did it on 40 meters, but missed Y87B on 20 meters. I was surprised by the difference in signal strength between stations. It was easier for me to work them on 40 meters. It was no surprise that Y87B came in last place in the competition. They focused on SSB, but came in first with SSB contacts. I will be curious to see how I did in the WRTC Sprint (working them all the fastest), Most QSOs, and distance challenge (contacts X distance). They are awarded by region which is all W4.

I have had a good time working 6 meter FT8 E skip this month. It has been fun working new grid squares at a rapid pace. It reminds me of when I first started working the WARC bands for DXCC. The level of activity on FT8 is much higher than it ever was on CW or SSB. Since more people can make contacts many more are participating with FT8. I also got JT Alert working with HRD to log my WSJT-X contacts after I watched a great YouTube video and made a few changes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0EjNjSFDdU&app=desktop>

I did not know that Tom, N4KG had made his Collins 75S3B a CW only receiver by adding a CW filter between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> IF. I took the modifi-



cation out and got it back to stock configuration. The Yaesu FT-1000MP I have been working on from Tom's estate still has a sub receiver S meter problem. So far Bob, K8Ki and I have found a bad op amp. Bob and I have continued to make progress on the active receive antennas. Warren has asked to purchase the second one. I gave Warren a bag of assemblies to replace parts. The wires in the toroids were even shorted in some units. The FETs were blown in half the units. The real surprise is the lightning event came from the power side not the antenna.

I would like to thank Warren and Bob again for all the work they have done with Tom's estate. This week we met at the Tom's shed to load up equipment to sell at the hamfest. We

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## Hamfest Forum Preview

August Program by Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

It's August, and that means hamfest. Say thank you to NADXC members Kelley W4VPZ, Mark N4BCD, Art N4UC, Jim N4KH and the others on the hamfest committee who bring the World's Friendliest Hamfest to you every year. Come hear about the forums in store at our next meeting: 5:30 pm for dinner, 6:30 for the business meeting, and 7:00 to hear about the forums.





N4KG's Tektronix mainframe scopes

filled my truck up with the best of what was left. It included 5 Tektronix oscilloscopes. After testing them 4 are headed to the dumpster. About 75 percent of the plug-ins were good.

My Orion 2 failed recently coming up in Master reset Mode. I didn't realize it had a battery on the processor board. It also had a connector loose that made the band switches not operate. Now I can get back to working on my transverter project.



AG4W's cranky Orion II

## The LongPath Staff

### Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

### Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Steve Werner, AG4W, From the President

My 2 meter amplifier project is moving forward. I have a packaging approach and a design to match the 2 amplifiers. I am getting excited about the Huntsville Hamfest so that I can get some of the parts that I need. I ordered some from DX Engineering using a gift certificate I won at Dayton. I'm now using coax crimp connectors. The ones I picked still use solder center conductor. After I made 4 cables I started to get better at it.

The Perseid meteor shower will peak this weekend. I made over a dozen meteor scatter contacts on 6 meters using MSK144 during the Leonid and Gemini meteor showers in November and December. I'm hooked. I use 75 watts and a 4 element quad. It is exciting working MSK144 for meteor scatter contacts. Unlike EME contacts on JT65B that I don't hear most of the time, you can hear and see the ping from the meteor you have been waiting for. Some contacts take a while. That is all part of the fun. Expect to have 60 to 70 meteors per hour.

I am looking forward to spending some time at the hamfest with Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF our speaker at the DX club banquet. It will be interesting to learn about how Kosovo became a new

DXCC country. With a great speaker with Jim, a new meeting room close to the hamfest at the Springhill Suites, a great first prize from GigaParts and Yaesu, the FTDX-1200, and great food we should have a really good turnout for the banquet. I just received a Heil Pro 7 from Bob Heil. That will make a great 2<sup>nd</sup> prize. Don't wait until the meeting this month to buy a ticket. We have to turn in our number of attendees to the hotel on Monday before our meeting. If you have never attended the DX club banquet I encourage you to attend even if you can't make it to the hamfest during the day. You will also get a chance to meet some really interesting hams from all over the south-east.

With the increased use of LOTW I will be curious to see if we have as many DXCC cards to check at the hamfest this year. Mike Maples and I usually get a significant number to check on Saturday. I am glad Tom Duncan is going to give us a preview of the forums at this month's club meeting. It always frustrates me to have to miss most of the forums do to other volunteer commitments at the hamfest.

73,  
Steve AG4W

## Treasurer's Report for July, 2018

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ, NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

Beginning Balance	\$ 7,453.50
Credits	
Banquet Tickets	\$ 559.65
N4KG Estate Sales	\$ 1,483.15
Member Dues	\$ 14.59
W4BRE memorial donation	\$ 100.00
Debits	
ARRL Memorial Bricks (N4KG, K4XH, W4BRE)	\$ 750.00
Ending Balance	\$ 8,860.44

## DX Contests for August

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

### WAE CW DX Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

Aug 11, 0000Z to Aug. 12, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus serial No. See web for QTC rules.

See page 86, August QST and [www.darc.de](http://www.darc.de)

### SARTG WW RTTY Contest, (RTTY), 80-10 meters

Aug. 18, 0000Z to Aug. 19, 1600Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial No.

See page 86, August QST and [www.sartg.com](http://www.sartg.com)

### Keymen's Club of Japan Contest (CW), 160-6 meters

Aug. 18, 1200Z to Aug. 19, 1200Z

Exchange: RST and prefecture or continent

See page 86, August QST and [www.kcj-cw.com](http://www.kcj-cw.com)

### Russian District Award Contest, (CW, SSB), 160-10 meters

Aug. 18, 0800Z to Aug. 18, 0800Z

Exchange: RS(T), Serial or Russian District

See page 86, August QST and [rda-ward.org/rdac1.htm](http://rda-ward.org/rdac1.htm)

### CVA DX Contest, (CW), 80-10 meters

Aug. 18, 2100Z to Aug. 19, 2100Z

Exchange: RST plus category (see rules)

See page 86, Aug. QST and [www.cvadx.org](http://www.cvadx.org)

### SARL HF Digital Contest (DIG), 80-20 meters

Aug. 19, 1400Z to 1700Z

Exchange: RST, serial no.

See page 86, Aug. QST and [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za)

### YO DX Contest, (CW,SSB), 80-10 meters

Aug. 25, 1200Z to Aug. 26, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T), Serial or YO district

See page 86, August QST and [www.yodx.ro/en/english](http://www.yodx.ro/en/english)

### CVA DX Contest, (SSB), 80-10 meters

Aug. 25, 2100Z to Aug. 26, 2100Z

Exchange: RS plus category (see rules)

See page 86, Aug. QST and [www.cvadx.org](http://www.cvadx.org)

### SARL HF CW Contest (CW), 80-20 meters

Aug. 26, 1300Z to 1630Z

Exchange: RST, serial no.

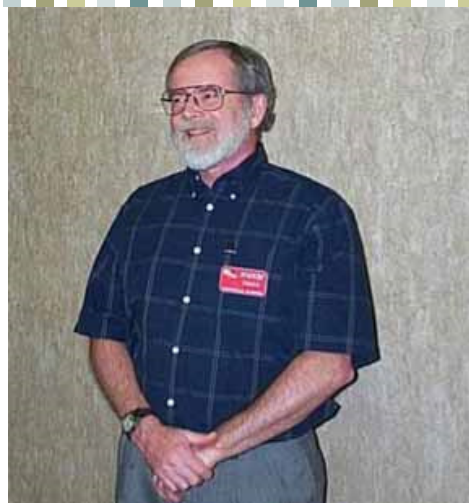
See page 86, Aug. QST and [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za)

### WAE DX Contest, (SSB), 80-10 meters

Sept. 8, 0000Z to Sept. 9, 2359Z

Exchange: RS, serial no.

See <http://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/referat-conteste/worked-all-europe-dx-contest/en/>



### All Asian DX contest, (SSB), 80-10 meters

Sept. 1, 0000Z to Sept. 2, 2400Z

Exchange: RS plus 2-digit age

See: [https://www.jarl.org/English/4\\_Library/A-4-3\\_Contests/2018AA\\_rule.htm](https://www.jarl.org/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2018AA_rule.htm)

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM

### NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Steve Werner, AG4W
Vice President	Rob Suggs, KB5EZ
Secretary/	Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ
Treasurer	
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
Directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY



## July 10th Meeting Minutes

By Kelley Johns, W4VPZ-NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

### Members in Attendance

23

### Review of Sign-in Sheet & DX worked:

#### KH1/KH7Z

Chuck N4NM

Art N4UC

Tim AB4B (15-160)

Jim N4KH (and G8BGC 6m)

Mark N4BCD (and 13 Colonies plus 2 bonus stations in 20 calls)

Al W4ABW (3B2A received today)

Steve AG4W (and ISO, B4, PZ5, 6 meters)

John N5DF (40, 20, 15 cw)

Stephen KK4TJP (and MD0, XP3A, all new DXCC for me)

Johnny KR4F

Bob K8KI (x8)

Tom KG4CUY

Rob KB5EZ

help with receiving cards while he is checking them.

WRTC is this weekend, along with IARC RadioSport. There will be about 60 stations operating for "the Olympics for contesting" event. A live video feed will be provided online.

ARRL Diamond Terrace memorial bricks have been ordered for Tom N4KG and John K4XH. Certificates have been requested for those, and will be framed and presented to Ruth and Nancy K4JD (or another family member).

Kevin KG4TEI reported that Craig NM4T is doing well in rehab after his surgery.

### Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance \$ 4,823.99

### Credits

Dues Payments	\$ 30.08
Banquet Tickets	\$ 258.20
N4KG Estate Sales	\$ 275.00
N4KG Memorial	\$ 45.00

### Debits (none)

Ending Balance \$ 5,432.27

The treasurer's report was approved by the membership.

### Membership Applications

Lapsed DX Club member, Art N4UC, paid his dues and is now an active member of the Club.

Meeting was adjourned for the program.

### Announcements

Steve AG4W thanked everyone who helped at N4KG's house on Saturday for the yard sale. Volunteers helped with cleaning and the towers. The tree surgeon had left a tower half-lowered, which was dealt with. There will be another yard sale in September when it may be cooler than it was in June. Bob K8KI brought two pieces of gear to the meeting that need to be purchased and/or taken home by others at the end of the evening.

Baker Island was the first DXpedition to use FT-8 in the fox & hound mode. It seemed to be a success. RTTY was not a success for the DXpedition. FT-8 is predicted to be a game-changer.

The North Alabama DX Club will have a table for card-checking at the Huntsville Hamfest. Steve AG4W will be checking cards and would appreciate

## August Birthday — Hans Christian Oersted

Hans Christian Oersted, born in Denmark on August 14, 1777 discovered around 1820 that a constant magnetic field emanated from a wire carrying a direct current by observing the deflection of a compass needle. He is also credited with having defined the thought experiment brought to great fame a century later by Albert Einstein.

Initially a pharmacist, after receiving his education Oersted became a professor of physics at the University of Copenhagen. Faraday's observations on electromagnetics paved the way for Lenz's law and Faraday's law of induction.

He died in 1851 and is buried in the same cemetery as Hans Christian Anderson, Neils Bohr, and Soeren Kierkegaard.

